

Aotearoa Youth Network



November 1994 Number 18

WHAT IS AOTEAROA YOUTH NETWORK?

The Aotearoa Youth Network is an organisation dedicated to building links between youth who are active in "progressive" politics. It is open to all and seeks to provide a place for discussion, learning and action across organisations, individuals and causes.

AYN was established at the 1993 Peace, Power and Politics Conference, where over 600 people (including over 150 young people) gathered. The main activity of AYN so far has been the production of a monthly newsletter, which presently goes to over 140 people, and reaches a far wider audience. AYN has established a positive presence in the progressive peoples' movement, and hopes to go beyond "networking" to assist in the formation of new organisations and groups.

We want to put anything in this magazine that you can write - news, articles, poetry, letters, anything. The more you write in, the more this magazine acts as a networking tool. We attempt to print anything you send without cutting but please note:

- We will not print anything that is overtly racist, sexist, homophobic or offensive to any marginalised group. If you want to debate issues that may offend people, try and be very clear about what you are trying to do, and why.

Deadline: 20th December.

Write to AYN at:
c/- The Web Resource Centre
111 Moray Place
Dunedin.

Spooks Recruit at Canterbury

The Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) is on the lookout for more recruits. New Zealand's most secret spying organisation is recruiting "graduate or near graduate" Canterbury students to help run New Zealand's signals intelligence spy bases - Waihopai and Tangimoana.

The GCSB operates under the international umbrella organisations of the GCHQ (Britain) and the US National Security Agency (NSA) - the biggest spy intelligence organisation in the world. Waihopai (satellite interception) and Tangimoana (radio signals interception) are New Zealand's covert contribution to aiding American domination of the information super highway, and are

providing the US with military and economy intelligence intercepted in the South Pacific, spying on our neighbours in other words.

The GCSB has minimal accountability to the New Zealand Government. MP's are refused answers upon requesting information about the functions of either of the two bases, and the budget of the organisation (approx. NZ \$20 million) is the only form of accountability to our official representatives that we get.

Graduates recruited into the GCSB system will have the capability to listen in to the private overseas faxes, telexes, e-mail, and phone calls made by New Zealanders.

Melanie Thomson.

The 3rd Sustainable Energy Forum

Getting real: putting sustainable energy into practice at the regional and local level.

17-19 February 1995. College House, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

Featuring: Keynote speakers, local site visits, workshops and technology exhibitions with a focus on identifying implementation procedures and barriers for sustainable energy practices in residential, commercial, industrial and transport applications at the local, regional and national levels.

Approximate costs:

In residence	\$275.
Non residence	\$100.
Student / Unwaged	\$50.

If you are interested in attending the conference, write to SEF '95, PO Box 827 Christchurch. Phone 03-379-5425 or fax 03-379-5426. Also write to the Sustainable Energy Forum, PO Box 11 152 Wellington, phone 04-499 8668.

Supported by: the Sustainable Energy Forum, ANZSES/Solar Action, Southpower, Ampere Technology Ltd., EECA, ESR, IPENZ Canterbury, Design and Development Services, Canterbury Regional Council and others.

Greenpeace beyond 1994

- campaign directions.

Greenpeace determined new directions for its international campaigns this week at the organisations 1994 Annual general Meeting in Tunisia. After four days of discussions which reviewed the state of the environment, campaign goals and the operations of Greenpeace offices in all quarters of the world, Greenpeace adopted the following statement:

Greenpeace,

Aware that ecological trends and environmental problems continue to worsen globally at an alarming and unprecedented rate;

Noting that the acceptance by governments and industry that these problems exist is not being matched by the necessary action to reduce or eliminate the environmentally damaging effects of production and consumption;

Noting in particular, that trade, aid and investment flows from industrialised countries are in many cases multiplying the social and ecological impacts of environmental problems in the South, and failing to support the existing technologies and industries which could alleviate many of these problems;

Convinced that as public awareness and concern about environmental issues is high, it is now more urgent than ever to reform the unsustainable practices, processes and policies of industrialised and industrialising countries;

Recognising the need for Greenpeace itself to match the changing nature of the causes of

environmental destruction with changed strategies for action, Greenpeace resolves to:

1. Launch new campaigns and shift resources into identifying both the problems and solutions, and to seek to divert major flows of public and private finance away from planet threatening projects, such as coal fired or nuclear power stations, towards environmentally safe investments and alternatives, in order to transform industries and economies.
2. Increase the effort devoted to designing international campaign work so as to ensure that it is directly understandable by and relevant to business, the public, industry and political systems in the countries where Greenpeace works.
3. Create new alliances where necessary, for examples with citizens or consumer groups, indigenous or native peoples, business or industries, in order to deliver the necessary results in terms of environmental protection.
4. To pursue relentlessly the aims of protecting the atmosphere from global change; to reverse the factors eroding the Earth's biodiversity; to stop the generation, use and disposal of chemicals and substances that threaten human and ecological health; and to achieve the final phase out of nuclear power, the abolition of nuclear weapons and a halt to the manufacture or use of

weapons of mass destruction.

In this pursuit, in 1995 Greenpeace will focus campaign resources in a number of crucial areas. These will include special efforts to:

- ensure that the scheduled revision of the Non-Proliferation Treaty next year recognises that 50 years of the nuclear nightmare is enough;
- ensure that a further step towards nuclear disarmament is taken by the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban treaty on the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki next year;
- protect the planet's climate and ozone layer by ensuring that industrialised country governments agree at meetings next year to radically cut emissions of polluting greenhouse and ozone-depleting gases;
- protect the marine environment from overfishing and pollution through adoption of new international regulations at intergovernmental meetings to be held next year;

In addition, Greenpeace will maintain campaigns which seek:

- a ban on the production and use of landmines;
- to transform refrigeration, air conditioning and other industries so they no longer use ozone depleting or global warming chemicals;

- to monitor and ensure enforcement of global controls on international waste trade;
 - to stop clear cutting of temperate and tropical rainforests, and to promote economic alternatives;
 - to eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals, in particular chlorine, which is still used widely for paper bleaching, in PVC and other industrial applications in spite of mounting evidence of devastation human and animal health impacts;
 - to stop commercial whaling;
 - to eliminate the use of drift nets;
5. In this context, Greenpeace will seek to utilise its global campaigning, communications and political capability to investigate and expose to the public the malpractices of governments and business involved in destroying the environment.
 6. Recognising the important role which solar energy would play in providing clean energy to meet human needs, particularly in developing countries, and in phasing out nuclear and fossil fuel energy sources, Greenpeace will work with the public, governments and industry to seek a rapid expansion of solar energy.
 7. In all its work, Greenpeace will uphold the original core values of Greenpeace, including complete non-violence, direct action, bearing witness, confrontation of problems, and to innovate campaign methods to be effective in bringing about positive change.

Sent on E-mail by Robbie Morrison, Wellington

The beginning of the end of the car culture in the UK?

In England, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has called for a big shift away from private cars and towards public transport. Along with 110 recommendations, it has called for the price of petrol to be doubled, and the roads budget of 19 million pounds to be halved, with the money being spent instead on rail, bus and tram services.

Environmentalists have hailed the report as the end of the "great car economy", while the roads lobby have attacked it, saying that the changes "cannot be achieved without billions of pounds of investment, restrictions on personal freedom and widening social inequalities". All this comes at a time when Government attitudes to transport policies appear to be shifting. The Department of Transport has now accepted that building more roads actually encourages more traffic, something that it has fought hard against. Consequently it has been scaling down roads projects.

Officials in the Environment Ministry are also opposing projects likely to cause more traffic, such as out of town shopping centres.

Meanwhile, MPs from several parties have called for a ban of unleaded petrol, following information about its previously unknown dangers and a Select Committee report. The aromatics used in unleaded cause more harm than the benefits of reduced lead levels. These aromatics have been linked to cancer and childhood leukaemia. Unleaded has been aggressively marketed as the 'green' fuel, without any education about the differences between its use in cars with and without catalytic converters.

Info provided by Chris Harris, from the Guardian Weekly.

AYN receives a number of magazines or newsletters. We can photocopy these for you if you wish, or can pass on more info to you. We also get sent bits and pieces from time to time. From now on, we will print a list of recent mail.

Asian Students Association Movement News.

Workers Voice - paper of the Socialist Workers Party.

Papers and leaflets of the Progressive Student Network of the USA.

Newsletter of the Buller Conservation Group.

City Voice - Weekly Wellington paper.

Foreign Control Watchdog - mag of the Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa.

PPTI Asia Pacific News - journal of the Postal Telegraph and Telephone International.

The State Adversary - new look anarchist mag.

Common Ground - mag of the Peoples Network.

Declaration - mag of Te Roopu Rawakore.

Mean Times - mag of the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre.

Information on the UN Summit on Social Development.

Next Step Democracy Movement newsletter.

Next Step the future of democracy?

I was particularly interested in the letter written by Kate Andrews and Amy Rountree, on the subject of the Next Step Democracy Movement. Kate and Amy raise many of the points that I have already considered, and have many of the same feelings on the topic. However my worries about Next Step are directed towards another area in the main part .. the whole issue of citizen initiated referendum.

I feel that it is a shame that the state of democracy is so bad that the only way that people can actually make a change in the policy of their government is to run around for a year trying to get 230 000 signatures. It makes a mockery of our political system, that participatory democracy is not actual participation in the democracy, but participation in this minor activity, which keeps us occupied and achieves little for our time.

Take the battery hens petition for instance. Now I support the petition, and hope that battery farming will be made illegal. However it seems so absolutely obvious that this should happen. Why can't the politicians just think ... battery hens, that sucks, we should make that illegal.. and then get rid of it. Why should a large bunch of committed and dedicated people have to sit on stalls for a whole year and do vast amounts of work to get the government to enact something that is so obvious and simple.

Is this the future of participatory democracy in New Zealand? When will Corso think.. our chance to finally get some action on East

Timor from the Government.. The day that someone asks me to sign a CIR petition that reads "that New Zealand cease trade with Indonesia until the people of East Timor..." is the day that I give up on this political system. I am angry enough over the simplicity of the East Timor issue, ie that it sucks and NZ should be doing lots of things about it, without having the dismal failure of our system coming out and saying well, you have to get 230 000 people to sign, and then we will hold the referendum within a year... something might be done for the Timorese before the year 2000.

I feel similarly strongly about many of the issues contained in the Next Step questions. Of course there should be free education, and free health. Energy efficiency is just obvious, and the defence cut in half.. I personally think why only half? But why should several hundred people around the country

and gain instead the right to spend a year sitting on stalls and at meetings, trying to convince 10% of the voters that what I believe is right, that they should sign this, is a very sad day.

However the latest mailout form Next Step might even make this whole debate irrelevant. I can only quote.. "if we cannot increase our income and the number of staff working in the national office significantly then we will not be able to complete the tremendous work already done in Wellington and around the country." The questions have to be raised - have our activist Messiah's in Wellington bitten off more than they can chew?, did they go too far, with too little support? They need money and people, without both Next Step could be finished. In my belief Next Step must either finish now, before it goes too far, and we fall from a great height, or it must go all the way through.

Who will make that decision? As Kate and Amy commented it will be "a small, self-appointed taskforce, membership of which at the crucial stages was by invitation only." In



have to mess up their lives for a year, possibly longer, just because our democracy is a sham. The day that I lose the right to storm into parliament and say to our politicians "this is what I want!"

my opinion Next Step is approaching the most crucial stage, that group needs to make another decision.

Kyle Matthews.

Buying a reputation

Don't let the recent blanket advertising campaign from Electricorp (ECNZ) fool you into thinking its developed a conscience. Far from it - the corporation made a voracious half billion dollar profit last year.

It's not difficult to see it as a cynical attempt to manipulate public opinion in the lead up to the decision on its controversial Stratford gas fired power station proposal. Despite what it says about energy efficiency there's no indication that it'll back down on the Think Big proposal in favour of energy efficiency and small scale renewable sources like wind or solar.

To recap: since Feb 1993 ECNZ have wanted to build a Clyde sized power station at Stratford: it would pump out 1.5 million tonnes more CO2 (the main global greenhouse gas. This is at a time when NZ along with most other countries is agreeing that we should be doing more to save the climate.

The proposal was the subject of a precedent setting legal inquiry into the CO2 side of things and a recommendation is due sometime in December. The Government then has a month to decide.

But with its usual arrogance ECNZ has already decided that it will start building the station by the end of next year (we say NO WAY) if it can't find another company to buy and build. At the moment there are 3 main consortia interested in buying Stratford, all involving foreign companies (including UK and US companies).

Its current attempts to buy back a reputation follows a litany of scandals in the last few years: including "sell like hell" and the power crisis and its underhand activities around new plans to dam the Lower Clutha. The current campaign is more a 'divert' than 'advert' attempt. Don't buy it.

Activists from all around the country came along to an Easter Forum in

Taranaki to plot and scheme around Stratford and the litany of other power station proposals. Hot on the heels of that ECNZ announced that NZ may need - was it 15 or 20 Clyde dam's by the year 2020 under business as usual. It buried information showing that wind power and energy efficiency would mean that we need no new large scale power stations for up to 18 years!

"Clean" solutions will create more jobs and using less energy can help keep power bills as low as possible. It's time for NZ to get into solar.

Interested in beating up this issue to run up to the Stratford decision and the critical Climate Summit in Berlin next March? More info? Want to get sent the free newsletter 'Green Grid'? If so, contact Kirsty Hamilton, Greenpeace NZ, Private Bag 92507, Wellesley St, Auckland. Phone 09-377 6128, fax 09-303 2676.

• **Kirsty Hamilton**

Bummer about the Climate

We've totally bugged the ozone layer as any fair skinned soul can tell you. With blind eyes we're doing the same with the climate. So what?

Low income people, the old and sick, Maori, and native species face the brunt of climate change in NZ.

Way back in 1988 climate change was described as "second only to nuclear war" by scientists and governments but the familiar story is one of big business interests - especially the corporate energy and car company giants - gutting government climate policies. In NZ we have the Natural Resource Users Group, a collection of the bad, the ugly or silent. It's not just one industry, it's a whole swag.

Scare mongering about the costs to the economy of action to protect the climate ignores the costs of doing nothing - and who pays. The

character of NZ is on the line. Not to mention other countries, their peoples and even peace. Wars over scarcer resources and bands of environmental refugees are already talked about seriously.

Many native species including the magnificent Kauri forests at Waipou north of Auckland could die out and one experienced Auckland scientist warns there could be mass extinctions of other regionally restricted native species.

Maori face "severe implications" as seas level rises and coastal flooding puts coastal taonga, kaimoana and Maori land at risk. Many waahi tapu sites are not 'moveable' and can't 'adapt' to changes. These are some conclusions of the govt Maori Working Group nearly 5 years ago.

"Noticeable and severe" impacts will affect those least able to afford it: the

"socially and economically disadvantaged" says government. And the hallowed "market" won't provide an adequate solution.

The most immediate and serious threat is if weather extremes like drought, flooding, storms or cyclones increase in frequency and severity. Remember the serious flooding affecting many parts of NZ last summer, or the recent storms. If that is a snapshot of the world to come then the costs to the community are massive. We can't afford to delay action to halt escalating emissions of greenhouse gases any longer. Doing nothing is dumping the risk onto people who've not had a say in the matter!

• **Kirsty Hamilton.**

Youth and the US left

Tahan Jones analyses the crisis of the traditional left in the United States and calls for a search for common ground with a new generation.

Emerging after the demise of the "old" New Left (the 1960s and '70s leftist movement in the United States), the next generation of young revolutionary leaders are picking up where their parents left off. The left today confronts obstacles that it never had to address before, in this country or internationally. The "traditional" nation-state Socio-economic mechanism to retain capital within national borders is being transformed into a new global economy and the previously socialist countries are disintegrating back into capitalism. These dramatic changes have thrown what's left of the "New Left" movement into disarray.

In order for young activists to succeed in making the left a driving force for fundamental social change, we must smash all barriers that prevented different segments of the left from working together in the past. Today's generation of activists are determined to build a unified movement based upon tolerance and understanding, because for us it is a matter of survival or extinction. Globalised capitalism is pushing the capacity of the natural and human environment to sustain life to the breaking point.

EVOLVE OR PERISH

Ages ago the dinosaurs were eradicated by a meteor that struck the earth and wreaked havoc on the global climate. Some species were able to genetically evolve with the rapidly changing climate and to

survive the "Ice Age". Those who could not evolve perished.

The left in the US has always been preyed upon by the state and the right wing. But when it was struck by the unexpected political meteor of the Soviet Bloc's collapse and the end of the Cold War, even long established and supposedly resilient left organisations could not adapt fast enough.

The resulting vacuum allowed society's "ecol" equilibrium to move farther to the right, forcing the left to an even narrower space on the political spectrum. For example, right here in "liberal" San Francisco homeless people and activists have to fight for the right to live on the street unmolested by Mayor Frank Jordan's Gestapo like "Matrix" program! Also, nationally, the debate over Clinton's national health care is a repeat of the same debate which took place in the mid-'70s, except today it's being argued further to the right - that is, the single-payer system is pushed further to the

sidelines. The US government still relies on international and domestic militarism and new "drive-by" war tactics - but individual organisations and whole segments of the peace movement have died off due to their inability to challenge this new tactic and the growing repressive political climate.

In order for left organisations to survive the meteor's after effects and the current onslaught, it must be based on at least two elements. First, its ideology must be rooted in addressing the fundamental causes of society's ills. And second, its leadership must embody this ideology and be embedded in the community. These two things are essential to ensure the strength of the organisation during the present turmoil and confusion.

The analogy with dinosaurs and Social Darwinism provides a general insight into the left's current condition. It also highlights the obstacles confronting young



**ACTION
IS THE
ANTIDOTE
TO DESPAIR**

activists who are taking up the struggle for fundamental social change. Unlike their parents' generation who had some ideological reference points in the independent and socialist revolutions of their youth, today's "X" generation does not have that kind of ideological base through which to develop and express their understanding of the problems confronting them. We are "on our own" in interpreting the turmoil surrounding us, and what to do about it.

REACTIVE OR PRO-ACTIVE?

To advance the discussion of how to build an up-to-date and effective left, it is useful to define two concepts, reactive and pro-active forces within the left.

- A reactive movement has an ideology that is not based in the fundamental interests of the masses of people. A reactive social movement is one based upon addressing the effects of the socio-economic problems within society, and is not orientated toward making fundamental changes in the socio-economic relationships that actually cause these problems. That kind of

movement is in a constant state of reaction to specific inequalities, which, in effect, creates a feed-back process that actually reinforces these social norms. It is a reformist movement (consciously or unconsciously) that seeks to maintain the current power relationships, only struggling for token "political enfranchisement" to enable its "leaders" to join the current (or a new) ruling class. This maintains the relationships in society that limit the self-expression of the country's economically disenfranchised members to gangsterism, drugs and other forms of self-destruction.

- A pro-active social movement, on the other hand, is based upon addressing and changing the fundamental causes of society's problems. It represents the fundamental interests of the dispossessed and their best consciousness for change. It is a revolutionary movement that seeks to destroy oppressive relationships. It is constantly acting upon the causes of inequality, which continuously challenges the social norms. This starts a process removing

the limits on political development and forms of expression, and culminates in the economic empowerment of the majority through control of the means of production.

In practice, however, there is a grey area within the left created by the external contradictions between itself (the left) and groups on the right of the political center. In the US these contradictions are no as sharp right now as they are, for example, in Peru. Therefore, here in the US pro-active and reactive tendencies within the left will cooperate in day to day struggles and for short-term objectives. But their long term objectives and activities remain opposite and contradictory.

Unfortunately, since the huge labour upsurges of the 1930s the progressive movement has been dominated by the reactive tendency embodied in compromises with government and corporate interests. The 1950s - '60s civil rights movement was co-opted by petty reforms and corporate interests; the groups that remained radical were systematically crushed by media misinformation and local and federal armed repressive forces. There were ideological weaknesses, too. I see the main problems as follows:

1. Most of the New Left was unable or unwilling to develop an analysis of the political realities of the US, instead adopting a "blanket" application of Marxism from struggles abroad. The specifics of the US as an advanced capitalist society were not analysed.
2. More crudely, some organisations were being used as pawns by foreign powers concerned about their own objectives rather than the US revolutionary movement overall. This created strife and conflict between organisations within the movement, which alienated most people since they could not identify with a movement whose ideology was not based on the realities of the US
3. The nationalist struggles of

UNEMPLOYMENT



"Go home, I tell you! The recession is over!"

different people of colour communities, the women's rights movement and the labor movement had no deep ideological unity with one another, so their struggles developed in isolation from each other rather than together as natural allies.

4. The mainstream peace movement was never willing to address the fundamental causes of US military interventions around the world, since it would force this overwhelmingly white movement to question their own socio-economic privilege in the US relative to people of colour. When the Government strategy shifted away from direct, large-scale occupation / intervention, the "peace" movement collapsed.

Most recently, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the degeneration of China into a capitalist state brought what remains of the traditional left to the verge of total collapse. The Persian gulf conflict (during which I, as a marine, refused to serve, and first encountered the left) brought all of the weaknesses within the movement to the forefront, exposing it as a dysfunctional social force for change. The major driving force behind the anti war movement was a self-centred ideology driven by concern about the possibility of loved-ones returning home in a body bag, encapsulated in their slogan "Bring Our Troops Home".

The sooner liberals realise that they cannot reform a bloodsucking vampire into a vegetarian, and the sooner the radical left realises that silver bullets designed for a werewolf are ineffective against the US vampire, the sooner they would be able to develop alternatives to the present organising methods being used. Maybe some day the villagers (the left) will realise that it will take more than a single hero or heroine to slay the monster, but it will

require a collective effort on their part. Whatever method is developed and used, it must be the equivalent of and have the impact of a stake being driven into the heart of the beast. Anything short of killing it would only result in the beast continuing its reign of terror on the villagers in the valley below.

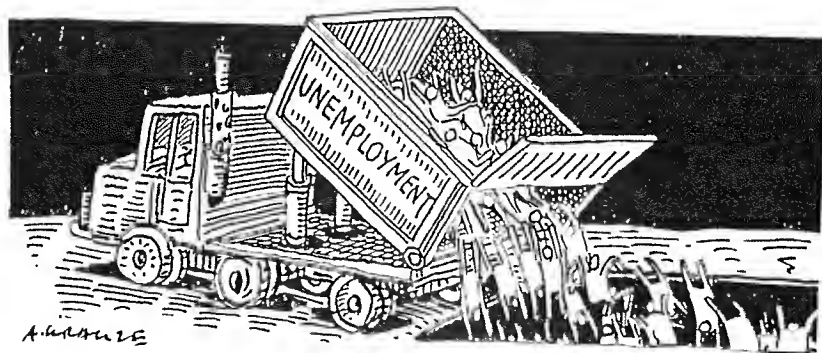
THE CENTRAL ROLE OF YOUTH

What the past 50 years adds up to is that the US left must develop a sustainable pro-active movement. To achieve this, the left must adopt a unifying ideology that transcends gender and racial barriers. It must have a sharp class analysis of society and the state. It has to have a vision that integrates socio-economic solutions with environmental solutions, and it must present the population with a workable and empowering strategy. Most importantly, this ideology has to be able to defeat the capitalistic "me first" mentality and replace it with a way of thinking that puts collective and community interests at the forefront.

History shows that when a social movement is not being propelled by a revolutionary ideology and by society's most oppressed members, then it will not be able to make fundamental social changes. The most radical groups that led the "New Left" were based among young people of colour who

were from the most oppressed sector of the society. They were the Black Panther Party, American Indian Movement, La Raza Unida and others. These groups remain an inspiration to my peers and to me; even with all their idealistic failures and faults, they were seeking nothing short of a total break up of all the oppressive bonds that kept them enslaved. The impact of their efforts can still be felt today.

Today's youth are again being "called to arms" as they rush to the political frontlines to defend their eroding human and civil rights. Unlike in the '60s, this time there is no "welfare" state left to soften the socio-economic blows or ease the alienation caused by a globalised economy. Today's government "final solution" for these unemployed and alienated youth is to intensify the militarisation of society and to "gangsterise" young people. Furthermore, there is no broad revolutionary movement to help channel their anger and hatred against the real enemy, the system. Consequently, we see the occasional spontaneous urban uprising, frequent individual attacks on police officers, or other forms of radical "political expression". The ongoing antagonism between the "X" generation's culture of social alienation and anti-authoritarianism versus the mainstream culture of conformity and consumerism is



not effectively challenged.

Without the youth of this generation becoming central to the left, the left will never become a revolutionary force for social change. The left must recognise that its primary objective is to address the socio-economic conditions that leave society's youth - especially youth of colour - without a nurturing environment, at risk, and vulnerable to the states armed forces. The youth are society's most precious human resource, and at the front lines in battling the state's repression.

Youth must be fully integrated into the left's work, including leadership positions. Only by empowering youth within the left will they gain the theoretical weapons to complement their front line battles. The left as a whole will benefit from this diverse range of experiences and perceptions, which are necessary to develop the solutions today's unique conditions require. The youth contribution will better enable the movement to transcend sectarian politics in favour of the politics of collective action, diversity of perception, mutual trust and support.

STUDYING AND NETWORKING

Activists in different parts of the country will experiment with a variety of ways for addressing the problems confronting the left. Two examples of attempts I am involved in are a study group and work in the California Network for a New Economy (CNNE).

My peers and I have set up a study group to develop an understanding of past and present events within and outside the

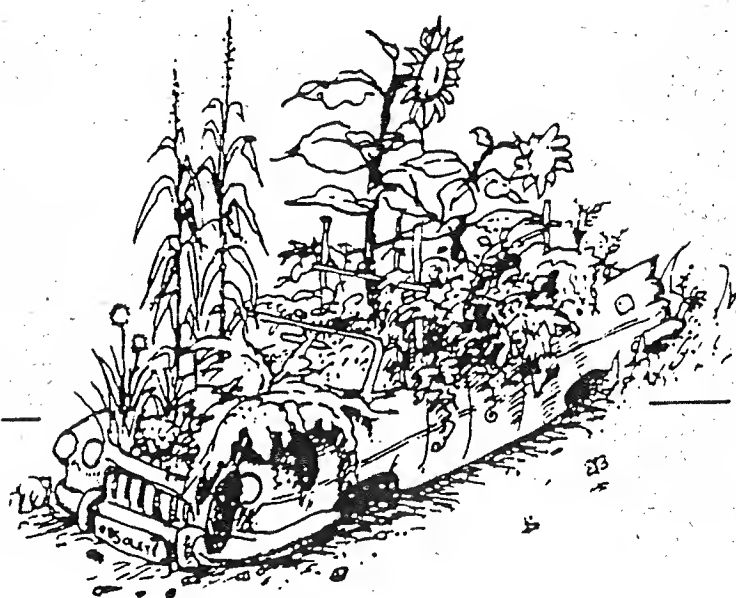
movement. We study different struggles against capitalism and imperialism in hopes of developing a collective course of action, or at the very least strengthening bonds of solidarity among us. We make every attempt to avoid having a homogeneous gathering of like minds in order to diversify the collective experience and our perceptions of society. However, we collectively recognise that AmeriKKKa is fucked up and maybe something new is needed. All the participants are "hard-core" young activists who do work on various aspects of socio-economic repression in this country.

I am encouraged by the formation and development of new groups that intend to address the fundamental causes of exploitation in this country. An example is CNNE. It is a coming together of labour, community, environmental and multi-issue organisations and individuals with an understanding that there is a real need for collective, broad-based action from the left. It is a state wide network

sustainable economy that is democratically controlled by workers and the community, environmentally sound, respects human rights, and seeks to promote global economic democracy.

As the dust settles from the political meteors of the last few years, there will be a new "political species" walking across the country's devastated socio-economic terrain. They will carry the political revolutionary process to a higher level, surpassing their decaying predecessors, and maybe even succeed in eradicating the right wing predators at the top of the eco-chain. As activists, we will have to learn to work to fight sectarianism and to work together or face virtual extinction as a social movement of significance against increased oppression and repression.

Tahan Jones



The Vegetable Car: one-time venerable Berkeley mobile landmark that drew attention to the automobile's impact on cities.

Illustration by Richard Register

whose objective is to build a

G.I.s Go Home!

"We recognise this area as vital to US national interests and we will behave with others - multilaterally when we can and unilaterally when we must." US Ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright.

Tension gripped the Gulf region when in anticipation of another Iraqi invasion, a massive number of US troops were deployed in the region. The deployment happened on the same day Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister was to address the UN General Assembly on the crippling effects of the four-year economic sanction. By October 12, US G.I.s in the Gulf region numbered over 30,000 while 155,000 more were ready to pounce at a moments' notice. Even as Western Media interpreted the move as a continuation of the "job that was not finished in 1991", the recent tension in the Gulf region was perceived by many as a move by the US to take the focus and sympathy away from the Iraqi people who are suffering immensely from the sanctions and to shift the attention once more to Saddam Hussein and his leadership.

An attack on Kuwait by Iraqi forces at this time was most unlikely. Without air support for Iraqi tanks, they were in no position to attack. The "no fly zone" over north and south Iraq still effectively bans Iraqi planes over those areas.

If the US was counting on the same unity reached during the 1991 Gulf War within the Security Council, it was to be disappointed. This time, players in the Security Council opposed the aggressive and war like attitude of the US in a bid to secure their own interest. While the Russian Foreign

Minister shuttled between the Gulf region and the UN in an effort to lift the sanctions, the French government distanced itself from the US position saying that the Iraqi troop movements were not illegal nor were violations of any UN resolution, and that the US build up seems to be motivated entirely by domestic politics.

The US continued to increase tension in the Gulf for its own interest despite concerns expressed by the Arab states of US' insistence to actively involve in an affair that Arab States were well prepared to resolve amongst themselves. In the past few months the Egyptian government has been seeing ways in which the UN could lift the trade sanction.

Always guided by domestic politics - no matter what the cost would be to the Asian people - the tension was supposed to work for the administration's advantage. Looming in the horizon is the US congressional elections on November 8. Already the polls have indicated that President Clinton's popularity rating has increased since the Gulf crisis.

The aborted Gulf War II indicates once again that the American military industry was poised for business, thinking of the massive profits from sales of weapons during the crisis. In 1991, while the US military composed the major military might against Iraq, the US paid only 12% of the Gulf war, while Kuwait (26%), Saudi Arabia (26%) and Japan (16%) paid most of the cost.

LIFT THE SANCTIONS

In the midst of war-hysteria, with images of US military operations

in the Gulf, the real issue has been overlooked: Iraqi people continue to bear the consequences of economic sanctions despite meeting all conditions for their lifting. For the record, the troop build up happened on the eve of UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus' report to the Security Council on Iraq's compliance with the terms of lifting the embargo. The 4 year sanction has prevented Iraq from buying essential goods for its people. According to reliable sources, 250,000 to 1 million people have died of illness related to hunger, lack of medicine and other effects of the sanctions. The conditions have become worse in September as food rations were cut to half because of shortage. The situation became so severe that the UN report of October 11 estimated that 2.5 million Iraqi children, pregnant women and nursing mothers face severe malnutrition.

While the focus is on the Gulf Crisis, it is important to show our support for the people of Iraq, as they go through hardship to which the reasons lie not in their country but rather in the billions of dollars US intends to protect. Please write a letter to the General Secretary of the United Nations urging him to lift the sanctions against the Iraqi people.

UN Secretary General, Boutros-
Boutros Ghali. United Nations
Organisation, BOX 20 Grand
Central Post Office, New York
10163-0020, USA.

**From ASA Movement
News October 1994.**

Letters to the Network

Dear AYN,

Harewood sentencing Update

"Exposure is disabling to the demonic" (William Stringfellow)

From our acts of resistance to the preparation for war, we have come to understand there are three stages. One is the action itself, the second - trail, and the third - punishment.

We enter the courtroom understanding that Holy Mother State protects such preparations for war and punish those who attempt to speak the truth. We have never experienced otherwise.

For praying outside the hanger doors of the US Air Force Air Mobility Command on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, by resisting the Starlifters' tale in the continual preparation for aerial bombardment, Ciaron and myself were charged with trespass.

The trial is a battleground where the State, with its language of criminal action, vandalism, property damage and punishment clashes with the pleas on behalf of humanity, speaking truth and non-violence.

Our first strategy was to make the court accountable to a law which recognises the legitimacy of occupying a space if trying to protect people or property (Section 3ii of the trespass act with which we were charged). The court continually rejected attempts to present evidence we believed would prove we were doing just that. Once the court had been exposed as not accountable to its own law, we spoke of our own convictions of repenting of our own complicity which enable us to resist continual preparations for the horror of nuclear and conventional war.

The most pathetic figure of the trial

turned out to be Major De Marco, the occupier. His sheepish looks to the judge after being asked questions, his refusal to "neither confirm or deny" whether the Air Mobility Command were responsible for carrying nuclear weapons, and his cultivated ignorance of not knowing the destinations of the flights he is responsible for is indicative of the assembly line mentality so pervasive amongst those who prepare for war.

Warren Thompson was able to bring the truth of the role of Starlifter flights, the role of Pine Gap and Nurrungar into the light.

Although we were found guilty and fined \$400 plus \$95 court costs, the truth was out.

Friends performed powerful street theatres in front of the institutions of power in this town, friends returned to the scene of the real criminal activity - the US Air Force hanger, friends vigiled outside the courtroom until our appearance. The court audience included a survivor of the holocaust, a former British Naval Commander, WWII CO's, German Peace Activists, students, lecturers, Christians, atheists, bearded patriarchs, beardless matriarchs. To the above and to those who called or wrote in support, we thank you.

And to Ciaron, who must be the only activist in the country who has threatened a judge with a hangin'. He could have come as a tourist, but initiated actions for the first time in years. Thankyou, dear brother, for your steadfastness and your gift to all New Zealanders, recognised or not.

Donations for the fines can be sent to
Moana Cole
212 Condell Ave
CHCH5
03-352-4752

Moana Cole.

Dear AYN readers,

This letter is to inform you of the NGO preparations being taken in Aotearoa towards the World Summit on Social Development and to seek the support of your organisation in this process.

The World Summit on Social Development is being held in Copenhagen in March 1995. It has been called by the United Nations in a similar way to the "Earth", Human Rights and Population summits that have been held over the last few years. The Summit itself will be the culmination of three New York based Preparatory Committees (Prepcoms), regional prepcoms, national reports, national consultations, NGO initiatives and meetings of experts.

These activities will feed in to the adoption of a declaration and plan of action at the final summit. The themes for the World Summit are poverty alleviation, productive employment and social integration.

As can be seen, these issues and the Summit itself will be of great importance to New Zealanders, given the major changes in social policy that have happened in this country over the last decade.

In Aotearoa / New Zealand an NGO Liaison Group has been established under ANGOA (Association of Non-Government Organisations in Aotearoa) to coordinate the work of local and national NGOs and liaise with the Government during the Social Development Summit process.

This group has undertaken the following tasks:

- providing an ongoing information flow to NGOs in Aotearoa during the lead up to and at the Summit itself.
- monitoring the New Zealand Government activities in the Summit process.
- ensuring the representation of Aotearoa NGOs at the Prepcoms and the final Summit in Copenhagen.

producing a 'peoples report' for Social development as an alternative to the New Zealand Government report.

McDonalds Protests

In order to achieve these tasks, the Liaison Committee has set itself a budget of \$10,000. At this stage we are especially seeking funds to enable Charles Waldegrave of the Lower Hutt Family Centre to attend the Prepcom III in New York in January on our behalf. Given Charles is already in Europe prior to this meeting we do not have to cover the air fare, but need to assist the family Centre to cover Charles' living expenses while attending the conference for us in New York.

We hope that you can help us raise the funds to enable the active participation of Aotearoa / New Zealand in this process. If you wish, we can provide more information on the Summit.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deborah Vernon. ANGOA.
PO Box 12-470, Wellington.

Several protests were held across the country on Saturday October 15th as part of the 10th international day of action against McDonald's. The date was chosen because it is United Nations World Food Day. McDonald's has been criticised as it makes billions of dollars while ruining the environment, contributing to the destruction of rainforests, exploiting workers, murdering animals, and selling unhealthy food.

This years protest were also designed to draw attention to the major libel case being heard in London this year. McDonald's have sued two environmental activists after they handed out leaflets criticising the multibillion dollar company. Since the case

started public criticism of McDonald's has increased.

Fifty people gathered to protest outside McDonald's in Queen St, Auckland. In Hamilton protesters performed street theatre in which "Ronald McDonald" seized a "cow" and stuffed her into a giant burger. This upset the local McDonald's manager so much he insisted that a friendly policeperson arrest two people. They have been charged with disorderly conduct.

A large crowd gathered outside Manners Mall McDonald's in Wellington to watch protesters lock a "Ronald McNasty" into wooden stocks. Passers by of all ages joined in throwing wet sponges at the imprisoned Ronald. Several hundred leaflets were distributed.

The central Christchurch branch of McDonald's was picketed by more than forty people and Ronald McDonald made an appearance but was prevented from demonstrating how McDonald's contributes to rainforest destruction when a passing police officers temporarily confiscated his chainsaw! The local branch manager later claimed that nowhere in the world had McDonald's ever used beef raised on ex rainforest land even though McDonald's had admitted in the London High Court earlier this year that they have used beef from ex rainforest land (de-forested as recently as ten years ago).

If you would like more information about the McLibel trial, send a donation to McLibel Support Campaign, PO Box 14-156, Kilbirnie, Wellington. Write to same address if you want to get in touch with protest organisers in your own area.

New Magazines and Newsletters:

Declaration. Magazine of Te Roopu Rawakore O Aotearoa, a national organisation of Unemployed and Beneficiaries organisations and individuals. Cost \$10 for 6 issues a year. Write to Declaration at PO Box 22-301, High St., Otautahi / Christchurch.

The State Adversary (new format). First issue includes news on Anarchist groups and happenings plus articles on GATT, Zapatistas, Permaculture, Bosnia and more. \$10 a year (four issues). Write to the State Adversary, PO Box 9263, Te Aro, Wellington.

Newsletter of Ngaa Kaiwhakanekeneke. A network of Maori and Pakeha aiming to promote biculturalism and a shift in political power towards Maori. C/- John Tovey, 30 Gavin Rd., Raumati. \$5.

Common Ground. Magazine of the Peoples' Network. Networking organisation formed out of the Peoples' Assemblies project. Includes local and sector updates and news. \$10 for 4 issues a year. Write to Common Ground, C/- 33 Wyndham St, Auckland.

Marky Poo.

Regional Updates

Auckland:

Counteract held a demonstration at the launch of ACT (Association of Crooks and Tax avoiders) as a political party. 100 to 150 demonstrated outside, making at least one attempt to get inside. In spite of the conference being 'public', Police prevented Counteract members from getting inside, using force to do so. News coverage of the ACT conference focused on the demonstration, and Sue Bradford from Counteract and the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre appeared on 'Fraser' to put the case against Trevor De Cleene from ACT.

Christchurch:

On November the 2nd the Education Action Group held a protest day based around the theme 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'. The University Council were meant to set the fees on this day, however they wimped out and decided to set them in December! Despite it being in the middle of exams we got about 800 to 1000 people there to watch Jim Anderton, Christina Rizos, Bill Rosenberg, a couple of lecturers and the woman with the highest student loan get "married". Jim Anderton had to be reminded to remove his ring before hand! We auctioned off university degrees (somebody bid an ANZAC frigate for a B.A.I) and then Lockwood Smith arrived surrounded by bodyguards, jumped through a window and straight into a waiting coffin. Jim Stuart, the University Chaplain, conducted the funeral ceremony. All in all it was good to see the Canterbury EAG could actually get a fees protest together after the turmoil of the year.

The Anti-Bases Campaign is tentatively planning a protest at Waihopai for the end of January or the beginning of February 1995. If anybody has any ideas about dates or possible actions, please contact Warren Thompson, ABC, PO Box 2258, Christchurch.

Moana Cole and Ciaron O'Reilly were found guilty of trespass on the 31st of October (see letters page), after they had gone onto the US base at Harewood on Hiroshima Day. They were each fined \$400 plus \$95 court costs plus GST. Outside the court about 20 people vigiled and performed street theatre in support.

On Sunday the 9th of October, the US military held an open day at Harewood. The Catholic Worker and the Anti-Bases Campaign went along and performed some street theatre and handed out leaflets. Four of us went dressed up as hitch-hikers in white face masks and black clothing - as in 'Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy'. The Police weren't terribly impressed, and after about half an hour they moved us on.

Dunedin:

Daniel Jolly was discharged without conviction on the 11th of November. Dan was the last of those arrested at the Sept. 28 fees protest last year to be tried. Yet again, the Police Complaints report on the Police violence that day has been delayed.

The Education Action Group, following the lead of SCARFIE in Palmerston North, have asked the City Council to consider the impact of Student Fees / Hardship on the city. So far the response has been positive.

Paul Galang and Timoteo Torre from the Philippines and Lisa Beech from Fielding performed 'political' music at Super Eight in front of a large crowd. Before coming to Dunedin they spent time with the workers locked out from the Alliance Textile Mill in Milton (for over 2 years now) and at a Wood Industries Picket line. They also took a workshop on popular theatre / music and cultural work and met with Matariki and CORSO members. Paul and Tim have been hosted in Aotearoa by Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links and Lisa Beech.

Coming Up

Next Step Activists Gathering. January 20 -24. Write to PO Box 11 578 Wellington.

Waihopai Camp / Demonstration. Late Jan - early Feb. Write to Anti Bases Campaign, PO Box 2258 Christchurch.

3rd Sustainable Energy Conference, 17-19 Feb 1995. Write to PO Box 11 152 Wellington.

Dunedin Conference on Social Development. Early March. Write to the Dunedin Forum, PO Box 374, Dunedin.

Regional Contacts

Auckland:

David Flemming
33b Birdwood Cres.
Parnell
Ph: 358-4811

Hamilton:

Dale Frew
PO Box 9578
Ph: 824-4480

Catherine Hodges
34 Harwood St
PO Box 9053
Ph: 839-0094
Fax: 838-0398.

Palmerston North:

Duncan Killiner
17 Worchester St.
Ph: 3549932.

or

c/o MUSA, Post Box
Massey University.
Ph: 357-4121
Fax: 354-2756
(Jamie Bichan and Steve
Collett can also be contacted
about AYN.)

Wellington:

Alistair Shaw
13 Hall St
Newtown
Ph: 389-7665

Emma Haxton
Kilbirnie Youth Centre
Ph: 384-8301

Nelson:

Kate McPherson
23 Wellington St
Ph: 548-9036

**As Kate is on the move
and working in Wellington
she is looking for some-
one to take her place as a
contact in Nelson. Are
you interested?**

Christchurch:

Melanie Thomson
10 Southey St
Ph: 337-3465

(If anyone else from Christchurch would like to be a contact please get in touch with the collective in Dunedin and Melanie in Christchurch)

Dunedin:

Cybele Locke
17 Blacks Rd.
North East Valley
Ph: 473-0684.

National:

111 Moray Place
Dunedin.

Another month, another issue. For those stuck with / blessed with producing the mag, AYN seems to be fulfilling some of the things that we set out to do. Recent issues have seen debate about movements from the point of view of younger activists, and about articles in AYN. This is really good to see. A number of new magazines have been set up recently, the (new look) State Adversary and Common Ground particularly. It is really important that we support 'alternative' media. Most movement magazines reflect the ideas of a group / organisation / political current, and do so in varying degrees of openness and success. This is one of the reasons that I think we need an independent 'youth' forum. The role that I hope AYN fulfils, or at least will fulfil, is that it reflects the experience of young 'activists' of whatever leaning. The worst thing that could happen would be for AYN to become the mouthpiece of one group or another - because then its distinctiveness would be lost. Some people may think / have thought that the editorial collective have such an intention. Whatever mistakes we have made & will continue to make, I don't think that's the case. Only by learning to work together and accepting our different perspectives will we move forward. As Jo Buchanan wrote in The State Adversary, "Learning to work collectively is a challenge in itself". It's a challenge worth taking.

Joss.

The E-mail address for AYN is:
kyle.matthews@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Subscriptions:

\$9 Unwaged / Student
\$18 Waged
\$25 Organisation
\$50 Institution

This subscription is for a whole year (12 issues). If you cannot afford this, write to us and we will send you AYN anyway. We appreciate any and all articles, news, art, criticism and gossip!

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Aotearoa Youth Network
111 Moray Place
Otepoti / Dunedin